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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1A

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 25 August 1951

SUBJECT Order of Battle Summary

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General Statement

1. During the period from 16 to 23 August 1951 no changes were observed in the organization or strength of the Soviet Occupation Forces in Germany. Sixteen combat divisions are still training at known maneuver grounds. Some reports have indicated that training has reached the stage of field exercises at regimental level. No indications of war preparations have been observed.

Ground Forces

2. Information recently received indicates that the engineer troops observed in the Aken area during the second half of July were not a unit engaged in an engineer exercise for a specific period of time but were rather engineer components of the Eighth Guards Army and of the GOFG which are believed to have been rotated to the area in cycles of one or two weeks for training in handling heavy bridge-building equipment.
3. Reports on troop movements from the Jerichow area to military posts and training grounds of the Second and Fourth Guards Mechanized Armies indicate that the river-crossing exercises begun in the Tangermuende area on the Elbe in mid-July were terminating by early August. This was inferred from the observation that the number of participating units decreased at that time.

24th Air Army

4. Extraordinarily heavy flying activity by all units of the 24th Air Army was observed during the entire reporting period. Joint exercises of ground attack and fighter units figured prominently in the training program. One air exercise, held on 20 August, involved three fighter regiments and two ground attack regiments.
5. Though the airfield improvement program at Zerbst, Werneuchen, Welzow, Merseburg, Briesen, and Puetnitz has been completed, there are indications that still other fields have been earmarked for improvement. These are the fields at Erfurt, Perleberg, Strausberg, and possibly Drewitz, Schkeuditz, Ziesar, and Guestrow.

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